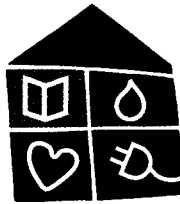


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Home Energy
Assistance Fund
Aid. Educate. Conserve.

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July 12, 2013

Bob Stump, Chairman
Gary Pierce, Commissioner
Brenda Burns, Commissioner
Bob Burns, Commissioner
Susan Bitter Smith, Commissioner
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JUL 12 2013



Docket No. E-00000W-13-0135

Dear Commissioners:

The Home Energy Assistance Fund was established in 2005, and is administered through community based organizations throughout the state serving low income residents. As a collaborative effort by Community Action Agencies, utilities, private individuals, and local and state governments the Fund was created as a solution to the demand for energy assistance. The Fund leverages resources through advocacy, partnerships and collaborations to maximize funding to the low income community. Funding for the program is supported by various utility partners, private donations, and abandoned utility deposits.

Over the past three years, the Home Energy Assistance Fund, through our community partners, has served approximately 8000 low income Arizonans.

On behalf of the Home Energy Assistance Fund (HEAF) Advisory Board, I would like to express our deep concern regarding retail electric competition and the potential devastating consequences for Arizona consumers.

Our initial research provides very troubling data that suggests rate payers, and in particular, low income rate payers will be harmed substantially by increased costs associated with retail competition. We have reviewed how other states have fared and all indications point to a more volatile market that our core constituency cannot bear, nor should they be subjected to.

Further, we are concerned that retail competition will harm the low income community as programs such as bill assistance and meaningful utility discounts could be eliminated as there is no incentive for any utility to truly care about their customers or for that matter be engaged in the community at a grass-roots level, such as our utilities are today. There are some things more important than the empty promise of a lower electric bill. There is community and caring for those less fortunate or on a fixed income.

There is more at stake for our state than a spreadsheet or an out of state company's corporate bottom line in retail competition. We hope that you will consider the bigger picture and the impact that retail competition will have across all classes of customers and weigh not just the potential positives but the disconcerting negatives that will inevitably come with any significant change in the market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Senseman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathy Senseman
Home Energy Assistance Fund
Advisory Board Chair

c: Home Energy Assistance Fund Advisory Board